

Notes from 5/6/10
CIS outcomes workgroup

Child and family based outcomes

- Use a common assessment tool (like the Parent Stress Index) to measure family outcomes
- Build on existing outcomes from Early Intervention (Early Childhood Outcomes and Family Outcomes: National Early Childhood Outcomes Center)

System outcomes

- We need to develop outcomes that can measure the effectiveness of the new integrated funding and service delivery system
- Look at how the CIS interdisciplinary team structure is functioning

Data collection

- Spend the first year looking at what we are already collecting and measuring at the local level
- Wait until the CIS database is in place before developing child and family level outcomes - data collection prior to that may be a burden on service providers
- Select meaningful and reliable measures, methods and tools

General thoughts

- Need system, child and family outcomes
- Detail the goals of CIS first, then develop the assessment/evaluation
- Need a combination of short and long term outcomes
- Matching the evaluation strategy to stage of implementation is important – we are in the initial implementation stage and should focus on verifying that CIS is being implemented as designed (fidelity) and on short-term outcomes. Rapid feedback of evaluation/monitoring information will assist in improving the design. When CIS is fully operational, then interim and long-term outcomes can be measured

From the September, 2007, CIS Technical Assistance Guidance document

Level	<i>CIS desired results (outcomes) for its target population</i>	<i>Performance measure:</i>
Individual Level	Pregnant women begin prenatal care within the first trimester and continue to receive adequate ongoing prenatal care throughout the pregnancy.	Timing of first prenatal visit and frequency of ongoing prenatal visits.

Child Level	Children's growth and development are on target Children show positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships) with peers and adults	Individual child and family outcomes show progress/attainment
Family Level	Parents, families and caregivers help their children develop and learn	Family reports positive gain
Family Level	Families have the supports they want and need to meet their basic needs; education, job, food security, decent housing, transportation, health and dental care, child care, and safe neighborhood.	Number and percent of children and families with ongoing health care provider (medical and dental)
Family Level	Families know their rights and advocate effectively for their child	Family reports they know their rights and can advocate effectively
System Level	CIS reaches its target population	Percent of target population using CIS
System Level	Families and primary referral sources know there are comprehensive resources available to them through the CIS team during the assessment and evaluation process	Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting was conducted within 45 day time period
System Level	Flexible funding exists to cover cost of heightened teaming or gaps in family/child services at times of transition Staff capacity is adequate and a data collection system and funding exist to track children after transition, for outcomes follow-up	Percent of children exiting Part C who receive timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday

Next steps

Based on the outcomes workgroup discussions and input from leadership within the Department for Children and Families, we believe we need to develop outcomes and measures that evaluate CIS on both the system and individual, child and family levels for this first year. These "performance outcomes and measures", will need to be collected as baseline data before we can move forward with setting performance expectations, validating positive changes and holding grantees accountable. The outcomes for subsequent years of integrated funding will likely change as we learn from our work over the next two years.

The CIS State Team will review the discussion from the first meeting, research methods to measure system integration and effectiveness, and propose a combination of baseline outcomes and measures for the new grants. We will also include in this discussion performance management and improving performance. This will build on performance measurement by using the information that emerges from an assessment to plan, implement, monitor, and further evaluate performance, and to hold grantees accountable for doing so. We will take comments on those and make a decision that will meet with DCF leadership approval for inclusion in the grant agreements.